

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-19 are present in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 13 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-4 and 6-12 are allowed, and that claims 15-19 would be allowable.

Claim Objection

Claim 7 has been objected to. Claim 7 is amended to correct its dependency. Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection

Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In a recent interview with the Examiner, of June 8, 2006, the Examiner expressed that he believed that the term “scheduled” is a broad term, and that Yamaguchi’s “predetermined period of time” would constitute a scheduled time period.

Applicants disagree in the sense that Yamaguchi’s “predetermined period of time” pertains to “what” information can be erased rather than “when” information would be erased. Yamaguchi’s “predetermined period of time” pertains to a range of storage dates that information would be erased.

In order to clarify this distinction, claim 13 has been amended to cover the disclosure with respect to decision steps S12-8 and S12-2 for “when” the erase data step S12-11 may be carried out, as shown in Fig. 12.

Based on the claim as amended, Applicants request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$120.00 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter, she is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222), who may be reached in the Washington, DC, area at (703) 205-8000.

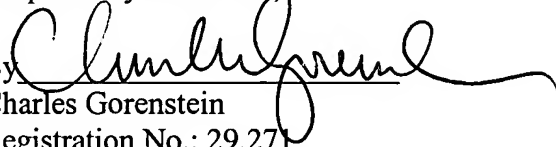
Application No. 10/076,364
Amendment dated August 7, 2006
After Final Office Action of April 6, 2006

Docket No.: 1152-0289P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29,271

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant